

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 087452

70

ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OC-05 CCO-00 OPR-02 A-01 /071 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W-JKBISHOP:DFF

APPROVED BY AF-JJBLAKE

AF/W-RMWALTER

----- 045044

P R 162155Z APR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGUI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

INFO AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 087452

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PINS, CH

SUBJECT: COUP IN CHAD

1. AFTER TWO DAY INTERRUPTION COMMUNICATIONS JUST RE-
STORED WITH EMBASSY NDJAMENA. FROM INITIAL EMBASSY RE-
PORTING AND WIRE SERVICE ACCOUNTS FOLLOWING IS SITUATION
AS CURRENTLY UNDERSTOOD BY DEPARTMENT.

2. MAJOR KABOUGUE ABDEL KADER (FORMERLY KNOWN AS GEORGE
VIDAL), G-3 FOR CHADIAN ARMED FORCES HIGH COMMAND, LED A
FORCE COMPOSED OF SEVERAL ARMY UNITS IN AN EARLY MORNING
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 087452

ASSAULT APRIL 13 AGAINST THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE CHADIAN

SECURITY COMPANY (CTS), RESPONSIBLE FOR PRESIDENTIAL SECURITY, AND THEN AGAINST THE PRESIDENTIAL COMPOUND ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF NDJAMENA. AFTER CONFUSED AND BLOODY FIGHTING THE CTS WAS OVERWHELMED AND THE COMPOUND TAKEN.

3. BEGIN FYI- ACCORDING TO A CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE, PRESIDENT TOMBALBAYE WAS TAKEN ALIVE AND THEN KILLED WHEN HE REFUSED TO ENTER A TRUCK. ACCORDING TO THE SAME SOURCE, CHADIAN ACTING CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL MILAREW ODINGAR, (FORMERLY KNOWN AS NOEL ODINGAR) WAS SURPRISED WHEN COUP OCCURRED, INITIALLY TRIED TO RALLY SUPPORT FOR TOMBALBAYE, AND ONLY THREW HIS SUPPORT TO THE INSURGENTS AFTER THE FRENCH

MILITARY REFUSED TO INTERVENE TO PROTECT TOMBALBAYE.
END FYI.

4. GENERAL ODINGAR INITIALLY WAS SPOKESMAN FOR NEW MILITARY REGIME. OTHER MEMBERS ARE SENIOR MILITARY AND GENDARMERIE OFFICERS, INCLUDING SEVERAL WHO HAD BEEN ARRESTED BY TOMBALBAYE AND WERE RELEASED BY INSURGENTS. RADIO BROADCAST APRIL 16 SAID GENERAL FELIX MALLOUM NEW HEAD OF GOVERNMENT. MALLOUM, REPUTEDLY CHAD'S MOST COMPETENT AND POPULAR OFFICER- WAS SERVING AS CHIEF OF STAFF WHEN ARRESTED BY TOMBALBAYE IN 1973. HE WAS AMONG OFFICERS LIBERATED IN HOURS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING TOMBALBAYE'S OVERTHROW. EARLIER PUBLIC BROADCAST ODINGAR SAID MILITARY OVERTHREW TOMBALBAYE BECAUSE HE HAD HUMILIATED ARMED FORCES AND WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR CHAD'S ECONOMIC STAGNATION. IN TEN DAYS PRECEDING COUP TOMBALBAYE HAD ARRESTED THREE SENIOR OFFICERS AND SPOKEN OF PLANS TO REORGANIZE MILITARY FORCES. REGIME STILL APPARENTLY IN PROCESS ORGANIZATION. ODINGAR ANNOUNCED THAT FORMER TOMBALBAYE OFFICIALS WILL NOT BE SUBJECT REPRISALS. HOWEVER, SOME OF TOMBALBAYE'S CLOSEST ASSOCIATES HAVE BEEN TOLD TO SURRENDER THEMSELVES TO THE MILITARY.

5. FROM REPORTS RECEIVED TO DATE IT APPEARS NO FOREIGNERS WERE INJURED DURING COUP, THAT PEACE HAS BEEN RESTORED IN NDJAMENA, AND THAT THERE WAS NO VIOLENCE OUTSIDE THE CAPITAL. THE NEW REGIME HAS BROADCAST ITS ASSURANCES
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 087452

REGARDING THE WELFARE OF FOREIGNERS AND THEIR INTERESTS.

6. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE TO DATE OF ANY FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT IN COUP, WHICH APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN RESPONSE TO TOMBALBAYE'S ARREST OF SENIOR OFFICERS AND THREATS TO REORGANIZE MILITARY FORCES. FROM WHAT LITTLE IS KNOWN OF NEW LEADERS' POLITICAL VIEWS, THERE IS NO REASON TO EXPECT ANY RADICAL CHANGE IN CHAD'S GENERALLY PRO-WESTERN INTERNATIONAL ORIENT-

TATION. OUR EMBASSY AT NDJAMENA HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO
MONITOR SITUATION CLOSELY TO DETERMINE EXTENT TO WHICH
REGIME IS EXERCISING EFFECTIVE CONTROL. WE PROBABLY
WILL MAKE NO DECLARATION OF RECOGNITION BUT GRANT DE FACTO
RECOGNITION BY DOING BUSINESS WITH REGIME IF WE ARE
SATISFIED IT MEETS OUR NORMAL CRITERIA. KISSINGER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, MILITARY GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchandr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE087452
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JKBISHOP:DFF
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750133-0775
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750444/aaaabpip.tel
Line Count: 121
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchandr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <06 OCT 2003 by buchandr>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COUP IN CHAD
TAGS: PINT, PINS, CD
To: BANGUI MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006